

AGENCY: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

TITLE: “VOLUNTARY DIESEL RETROFIT PROGRAM TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS TO BENEFIT SENSITIVE POPULATIONS”

ACTION: Request for Applications (RFA) - Questions and Answers

RFA NO: OAR-CCD-04-08

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NO: 66.034

SUMMARY: The following are formal Agency responses to questions/comments regarding the subject solicitation.

- 1. Could a demonstration that reduced diesel emissions from transport refrigeration unit engines, all of which are less than 50 hp, be eligible for funding under this announcement? It appears, from my reading of the RFA, that this program only applies to heavy-duty diesel engines; but, could smaller diesel engines also qualify"?**

Yes, smaller mobile nonroad, diesel engines are eligible for consideration under this RFA.

- 2. The language in the announcement says that proposals are accepted only from “state, local, multi-state, tribal governmental agencies or other nonprofit public or private organizations or institutions involved with transportation air quality issues.” Would a nonprofit hospital be precluded from applying for this grant even though the project is to retrofit construction equipment used in ongoing hospital construction/renovation projects?**

No. A nonprofit hospital, which meets the eligibility criteria detailed in *Section III, Eligibility Information* of the RFA would not be precluded from applying for these grant funds. The activities you described are eligible for consideration under this RFA.

- 3 I would like clarification on eligibility. Section III(A), in the 1st paragraph, doesn't use the word “private,” and the 3rd paragraph lists that it's open to “... non-profit public or private organizations or institutions...” Do the private organizations have to be non-profit?**

Yes.

- 4. The Department of the Environment for the City and County are considering applying for these funds through its Clean Air Program. In addition, another City Department is also considering applying for the same funds. If two departments for the City and County submit proposals would EPA consider funding both of them, or would it be looked on more favorably if the City only submits one combined proposal?**

Each eligible application will be evaluated according to the criteria detailed in the RFA. Applications which are best able to directly and explicitly address these criteria will have a greater likelihood of being selected for award. As you have described, the proposals may compete against each other or complement each other depending on the relative merits of each proposal.

5. Can the grant money be used for Federal entities as well?

No.

6. Can a hospital qualify for grant money to retrofit its generator sets in the Energy Center?

Yes. The activities you described are eligible for consideration under this RFA.

7. May I apply for funding for bus or engine replacement, or engine upgrades?

Yes, you may apply for funding assistance for the purchase of new engines, buses or upgrades to existing engines. However, this funding assistance is limited to covering the incremental cost of the advanced emission control technology on the new engines or buses.

8. We would like more information on what is meant by a “partnership” project. Specifically, can a municipality that owns and operates its own fleet apply for this grant? If so, would they receive less consideration than a municipality that contracts out its waste hauling?

Yes, a municipality that operates its own fleet can apply for funding. Each eligible application will be evaluated according to the criteria detailed in the RFA.

9. May I apply for funds for projects involving hybrid diesel-electric buses?

Yes, as long as the hybrid electric buses or systems are EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified. Applicants should only apply for funding to cover the cost differential between a new diesel bus and a hybrid electric bus.

10. May I apply for funding for buses powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) or other clean alternative fuels?

Yes, you may seek funds for retrofit projects involving new engines that are EPA or CARB certified to run on CNG, LPG or other clean alternative fuels. Applicants should only apply for funding to cover the cost differential between a new diesel engine and a new engine that runs on those fuels, and/or the cost differential for the fuels.

11. I would like to know the funding type of this award. Will EPA award the funding and the recipient draws down as funds are spent? Or do we incur the expense and we are then reimbursed for the expense? Please advise me.

Appropriate payment mechanisms are determined at time of award of the agreement.

12. Does the term "partnership program" indicate that the City needs to link this project to another project or another agency?

No.

13. We are planning to submit a grant application for the above-mentioned program. I have never submitted a grant application directly before -they've always gone through another agency. On your website it talks about submitting/not submitting the SF-424 form. As an operating division of a state agency, do I need to submit this form?

Yes.

14. The RFA states that "Electronic Proposals (the narrative workplan and SF424) must be submitted in Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, or pdf...." Does this mean that these portions of the grant application must be submitted electronically or is it simply stating that if one submits the application electronically, one of these formats must be used?

If an application is submitted electronically, it must be in either Microsoft Word, WordPerfect or pdf format. However, hard copy documents are acceptable.

15. I pulled a copy of the "checklist for applications over \$100,000" ...do we need to complete and turn in with our application each and every one of these forms?

Yes.

16. What is required to support or document our indirect cost rate?

If an applicant identifies indirect costs as part of their proposed budget, a copy of their approved indirect cost rate must be submitted.

For additional information on indirect cost rates, refer to the applicable OMB Cost Principles (Educational Institutions are governed by OMB Cost Principle A-21; non-profit entities, A-122; or state and local government entities, A-87. (Refer to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants>)